

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 /065 W

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O R 210836Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 184

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM MEETS PRESIDENT PAK

REF: (A) SEOUL 2933 (B) SEOUL 3152

1. NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM MET PRIVATELY FOR TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT PAK AT BLUE HOUSE MORNING MAY 21. CONTENTS OF MEETING WERE NOT DISCLOSED EXCEPT FOR BRIEF STATEMENT BY BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN KIM SONG-CHIN. KIM SAID THAT BOTH THE RULING PARTY AND THE OPPOSITION HAVE AGREED TO TRANSCEND PARTISAN INTERESTS IN ORDER TO OVERCOME UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL CRISIS. SPKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID TWO LEADERS HAD FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON OVERALL STATE OF NATION INCLUDING PRESENT NATIONAL SECURITY PROBELMS.

2. AFTERNOON PRESS GAVE STORY TOP BILLING INCLUDING PHOTO OF PAK AND KIM SMILING AND SHAKING HANDS. RADIO REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT APPEARED PLEASED AS HE ESCORTED KIM TO BLUE HOUSE ENTRANCE.

3. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
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REACTION TO MEETING. ALTHOUGH KIM HAD REQUESTED

TALK WITH PRESIDENT IN LATE APRIL (REF A) TIMING CAME AS SURPRISE. ASSEMBLYMEN CLOSE TO KIM HAD RECENTLY TOLD US THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE; NDP FLOOR LEADER KIM HYONG-IL TOLD POL COUNS MAY 20 THAT IN VIEW EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE HE BELIEVED MEETING TO BE DEAD ISSUE. (PRESS REPORTS THAT DRP FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG-TAE INFORMED KIM HYONG-IL OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION EVENING MAY 20).

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SEE KIM SEEMS TO BE GESTURE OF GRATITUDE TO KIM FOR OPPOSITION COOPERATION IN SPECIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WHICH ENDED PREVIOUS DAY WITH PASSAGE JOINT SECURITY RESOLUTION. PRESIDENT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH GENERALLY MODERATE REACTION SO FAR TO EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE. ONE GOVERNMENT SOURCE HAS COMMENTED THAT MEETING WAS TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF PAK'S ABILITY TO SWITCH GEARS RAPIDLY AND MIX TOUGH AND CONCILIATORY MEASURES. FINALLY, PAK MAY HAVE BELIEVED MEETING WOULD BE VIEWED AS SIGN THAT OPPOSITION ACCEPTS ROKG ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY THREAT AND MEASURES TO COPE WITH IT. WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON REACTION TO DEVELOPING OPPOSITION - GOVERNMENT COOPERATION.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL03600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-0091
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750531/aaaabbpr.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SEOUL 2933, 75 SEOUL 3152
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM YONG-SAM MEETS PRESIDENT PAK
TAGS: PINT, KS, NDP, (PARK CHUNG-HEE), (KIM YONG-SAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006